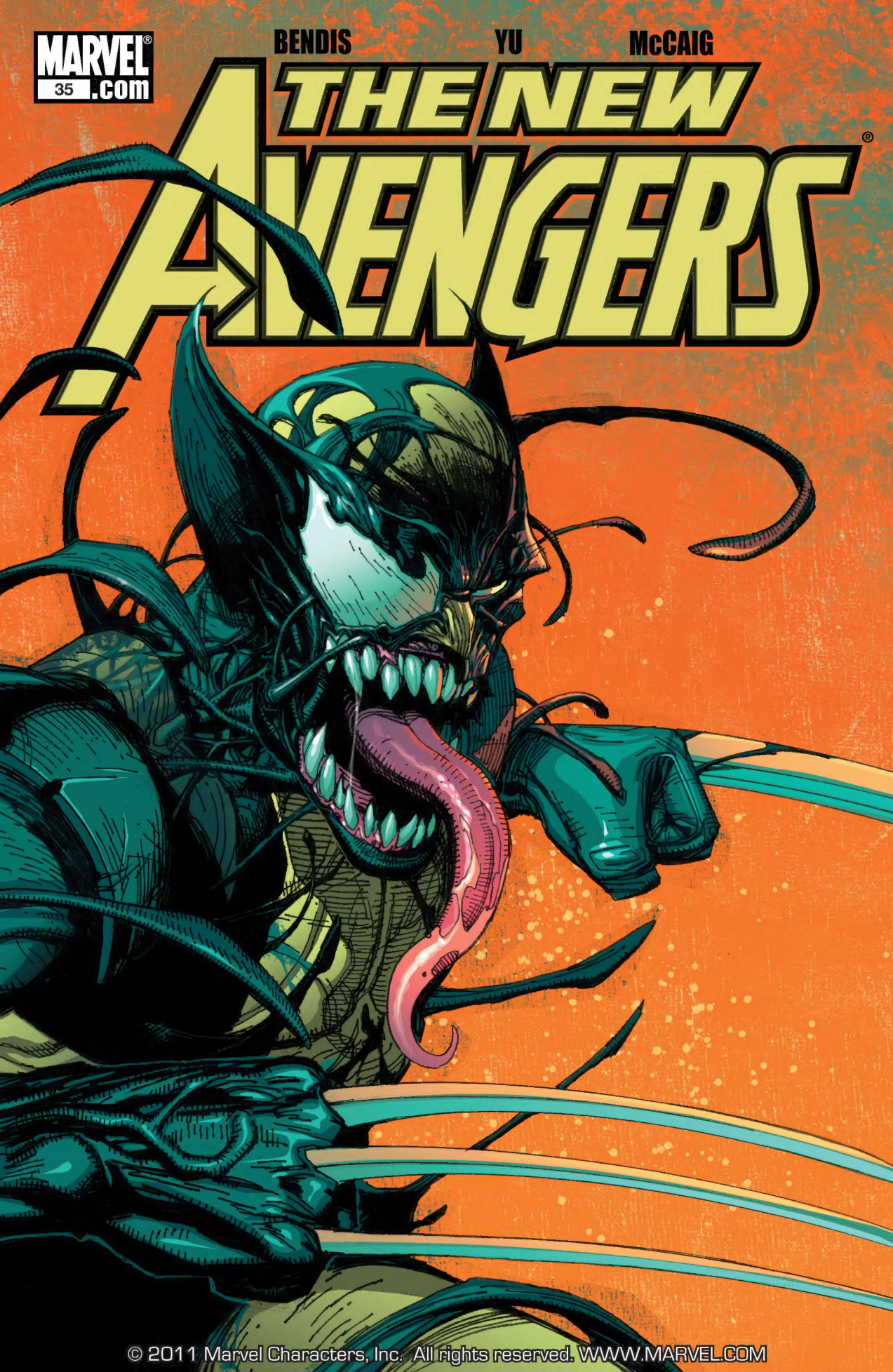

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THE NEW AVENGERS

THE TRUST
PART FOUR

PREVIOUSLY...

After the superhuman civil war, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Wolverine and Spider-Woman went underground rather than register their identities with the government. Together with Clint Barton—now wearing the costume of Ronin—Doctor Strange, Iron Fist, and Maya Lopez, the deaf woman also known as Echo, they operate out of Doctor Strange's Sanctum Sanctorum.

Recently, during a fight in Japan, Elektra, the leader of the Hand, was killed. Upon her death, her body reverted into its true form: that of a shape-shifting Skrull, sending the Avengers into a tailspin of mistrust. While on a hunt for more information about the possible alien invasion, Wolverine discovers the plans of a mysterious villain called the Hood who is about to launch an attack on Avengers Tower, home of Tony Stark's Mighty Avengers.

Meanwhile, after a mysterious virus is dropped to Earth from a satellite, most of the citizens of New York City have turned into symbiotes. Led by Ms. Marvel and Iron Man, the Mighty Avengers enter into a battle that they may not win, especially when they have begun to transform as well…

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SEVERAL DAYS AGO...
OPEN THE SAFE!
I-I--
OPEN THE SAFE!
I'M JUST THE-THE-THE OVERNIGHT GUY--I DON'T HAVE THE--
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
N-NO?
OPEN THE SAFE!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
PLEASE... I'M JUST THE NIGHT WATCHMAN, THE SAFE IS-- I DON'T HAVE IT.
HEY, THE GUY SAID HE DON'T HAVE IT...

...HE DON'T HAVE IT!
SMACK
THIS IS A LUCKY BREAK!
USUALLY I HAVE TO WATCH THE CLAWS...
BUDDA BUDDA
BUT NOT ON A PUSS LIKE YOURS.
ANYTHING'S GOT TO BE AN IMPROVEMENT, RIGHT?
CRACK
JIGSAW, RIGHT?
CAN'T REMEMBER YOUR REAL NAME. THAT'S NOT YOUR REAL NAME, IS IT?
BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE A HUGE CO-INKY--
FREEZE! POLICE!

PUT THE-- OH MY GOD! WE-WE HAVE A 545. REPEAT, I HAVE A 545!
I THINK IT'S-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.
IT'S OKAY. I'M ONE OF THE--
ON THE GROUND.
OFFICER, MY NAME IS GREER NEL--
ON THE GROUND!
IS THAT FUR?
DORA
OFFICER, I'M A CARD-CARRYING MEMBER OF THE INITIATIVE. MY CODENAME IS TIGRA. MY CALL NUMBER IS--
STAY DOWN! STAY DOWN!
DON'T YOU MOVE!
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA BUDDA
AGH!
DB
BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA BUDDA
AGH!

CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
SHE WAS COVERED IN FUR! IN HER PANTIES! SHE LOOKED CRAZY.
I KNOW!
I KNOW NOW.
SHE'S ONE OF STARK'S...
YOU KNOW.
ONE storage
ONE storage
DIDN'T GET A DIME.
DIDN'T GET @#$%.
FUN
MADE A TOTAL ASS OUT OF MYSELF...
=SNIFF=
AGAIN...

JIGSAW
These are challenging times. If you are interested in making some real money, money you could retire on,
there will be a meeting tomorrow night at 333 ater Street, Brooklyn

I'M PROUD OF YOU GUYS FOR SHOWING UP.
AND I KNOW YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE FRUSTRATED WITH WHAT YOU HAVE VERSUS WHAT YOU *KNOW* YOU DESERVE.

I KNOW THAT FEELING.
AND FOR YOU, FOR US, THAT FEELING IS RIGHT.

BUT NOW THAT WE'RE HERE...
NOW. US. ALL OF US TOGETHER...
...THINGS ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE.
MY NAME IS PARKER ROBBINS. THEY CALL ME THE HOOD.
YOU KNOW, BECAUSE I HAVE... A HOOD.
AND I HAVE A VISION FOR THE FUTURE.
A VISION THAT INCLUDES *ALL* OF YOU.
AND ALL OF YOU GETTING THAT WHICH YOU DESERVE--

WE'RE GOING TO ORGANIZE.
WE'RE GOING TO WORK TOGETHER.
WE'RE GOING TO HELP EACH OTHER GET WHAT WE WANT, WHEN WE WANT IT.
BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE SICK OF RYKER'S AND YOU'RE SICK OF THE RAFT--
--AND YOU'RE SICK OF LIVING IN THE SHADOWS AND WONDERING WHERE THE NEXT NUT WILL COME FROM.
OR WORRYING WHICH COSTUMED @##$$ IS GOING TO BREAK DOWN YOUR DOOR AND RUIN YOUR LIFE.
BUT HERE'S THE NEW NEWS...

CAPTAIN AMERICA IS DEAD.
NICK FURY IS GONE.
THE HEROES ARE FIGHTING THE HEROES.
AND HALF OF THE HEROES ARE RUNNING FOR THEIR LIVES...
...WHILE THE *OTHER* HALF AREN'T ALLOWED TO MOVE UNLESS IRON MAN *TELLS* THEM TO.

SINCE WILSON FISK WAS PUT OUT TO PASTURE IT'S BEEN EVEN *MORE* CHAOTIC FOR GUYS LIKE US THAN IT'S *EVER* BEEN.
THERE'S NO STRUCTURE TO ANY OF IT.
I SAY WE REPLACE THAT CHAOS WITH SOMETHING NEW.
WITH US.
THE PLAN IS SIMPLE...
IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. OR ONE OF THE HEROES... YOU DON'T TAKE IT HEAD-ON AND END UP WHERE YOU ALWAYS END UP.

YOU COME TO *ME* AND WE MAKE A PLAN.
WE TARGET THE PROBLEM AND DESTROY IT BEFORE IT DESTROYS YOU.
WE WORK TOGETHER. WITH NUMBERS, WITH TEAM-WORK.
ALSO--NO PLAN ON THE STREET IS MADE WITHOUT CLEARING IT WITH ME SO WE DON'T GO TRIPPING OVER EACH OTHER...
NO JOB GETS DONE WITHOUT PAYING UP AND FORWARD.
IF YOU HAVE A *PROBLEM* WITH EACH OTHER, YOU COME TO ME AND WE *DEAL* WITH IT.

YOU'RE NOT PAYING FOR NOTHING.
YOU'RE PAYING FOR LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION. YOU'RE PAYING FOR THE GROUP.
WHY YOU?
WHY ME WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU IN CHARGE?
WHO DIED AND LEFT YOU GODFATHER OF US?

OH...
...I THOUGHT OF IT.
OPEN YOUR ENVELOPES.
25 LARGE.
SEED MONEY.
GET YOURSELVES BACK ON YOUR FEET IN STYLE.
DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TO GET YOURSELF UP AND RUNNING.
UPGRADE YOUR TECH, GET A CREW, GET A PLACE TO SLEEP, PAY YOUR BACK CHILD SUPPORT, GET A GOOD MEAL...
WHATEVER IT IS YOU NEED TO BE YOU...DO THAT THING.
THEN YOU COME TO ME AND TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED AND I'LL SEND YOU OUT TO DO THAT FOR WHICH YOU ARE PERFECTLY SUITED.
AND DURING ALL OF THIS--IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE WITH A HERO? WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT.
HOW?
THE WAY IT SHOULD HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DONE.
THE WAY THE TRIAD DOES IT.
SOMEONE DOES SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT...
...YOU KILL THEIR FAMILY.
YOU DESTROY THEM SPIRITUALLY.
THEN... THEY'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT.
IF IT WERE THAT EASY--
--WE'D HAVE DONE IT YEARS AGO.

THAT WAS THEN.
NOW THINGS ARE DIFFERENT.
JEEZ!
IMAGINE IT. ONE BY ONE. WE GET THEM WHERE THEY LIVE.
ALL OF THEM. NO ONE IS SAFE.
NOT THE ICONS, NOT THE UP-AND-COMERS. WE *SQUEEZE* THEM. ALL OF THEM.
WE MAKE *THEM* FEAR FOR THEIR MOMMIES AND DADDIES AND AUNTS AND UNCLES.
THEY BUCKLE. THEY FALL APART.
THEY *DIS*ORGANIZE AND WE *ORGANIZE.*
AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, TONY STARK'S FIFTY STATE INITIATIVE IS FALLING APART--
--AND HE'S OUT ON HIS ASS AND SOMEONE REPLACES HIM...
...SOMEONE WHO *WE* CONTROL. WHO ANSWERS TO *US.*
AND TONY STARK HAS TO SELL HIS ARMOR FOR PARTS.
AND WE'RE THERE TO BUY IT.
WHAT'S TO STOP US FROM TAKIN' THE 25 AND SPLITTIN'?

HA!
WELL, IF YOU THINK YOUR LIFE IS ONLY WORTH 25 G'S... THEN YOU GO AHEAD.
THREATENING ME?
BLACKOUT, OF THE LILIN.
AFTER ALL THE CRAP YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH IN YOUR LIFE...YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO THROW DOWN WITH THE FIRST PERSON WHO'S *GIVING* YOU MONEY?
WHO'S *OFFERED* YOU OPPORTUNITY?
WHEN WILL YOU STOP SELF-DESTRUCTING?
I'M OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO MAKE SOMETHING.
THIS IS *SEED* MONEY. THIS IS *NOTHING.*
THE MONEY *I'M* TALKING ABOUT IS THE KIND OF MONEY YOU CAN BUY AN ISLAND WITH AND LIVE ON.
THE KIND OF POWER *I'M* TALKING ABOUT IS THE KIND FROM THE DAYS OF MURDER, INC. AFTER WORLD WAR TWO.
YOU'LL BE UNTOUCHABLE.
ARE YOU SEEING IT? CAN YOU SEE THE FUTURE?

YOU'LL BE FEARED AND RESPECTED.
THEY'LL MAKE *MOVIES* ABOUT YOU WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE. *PRESTIGIOUS* MOVIES.
AND IF YOU'RE *REALLY* THAT IMPRESSED THAT YOU'RE HOLDING 25K IN CASH...
...I *PROMISE* YOU, SIX MONTHS FROM NOW, YOU'LL LOOK BACK ON THIS DAY AND LAUGH TO YOURSELF THAT YOU THOUGHT THAT WAS A LOT OF MONEY.
NOW... THIS IS JOHN KING.
TO YOU--HE IS *ME*.
WHEN YOU TALK TO *HIM*... YOU'RE TALKING TO *ME*.
IF ONE OF YOU HAS A PLAN OR A LEAD OR A PROBLEM WITH ANYTHING, YOU COME TO *HIM*.
THIS THING YOU SAID ABOUT GOING AFTER THE HEROES AND THEIR FAMILIES...
...UM, I'M ALL FOR THAT.
BUT *HOW* WOULD YOU DO THAT?
HOW?
WELL, YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF MYSTERIOUS $*%@$S... AND I FOUND OUT WHERE YOU GUYS LIVE, DIDN'T I?
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, JIGSAW.
CONSIDER IT DONE.
MY GIFT TO YOU...
...AND OUR CALLING CARD TO THE WORLD.

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY *I* CAN'T PICK THE STATE I WANT TO WORK IN.

I UNDERSTAND THAT *EVERYONE* WANTS TO WORK IN NEW YORK.

I-I *UNDERSTAND.*

I JUST DON'T WANT TO WORK IN A DAKOTA OR A CAROLINA.

NO PARKING ANY TIME

SPA

BECAUSE I *LIVE* IN NEW YORK.

CAN I TALK TO TONY ABOUT THIS? BECAUSE TONY OWES ME.

UGH.

WELL, TELL HIM TO CALL ME BACK.

THEY'RE GOING TO TRANSFER ME TO ARKANSAS.

GUNS IN MY FACE FOR NOTHING AND NOW I HAVE TO MOVE TO ARKANSAS.

SNF

WH--

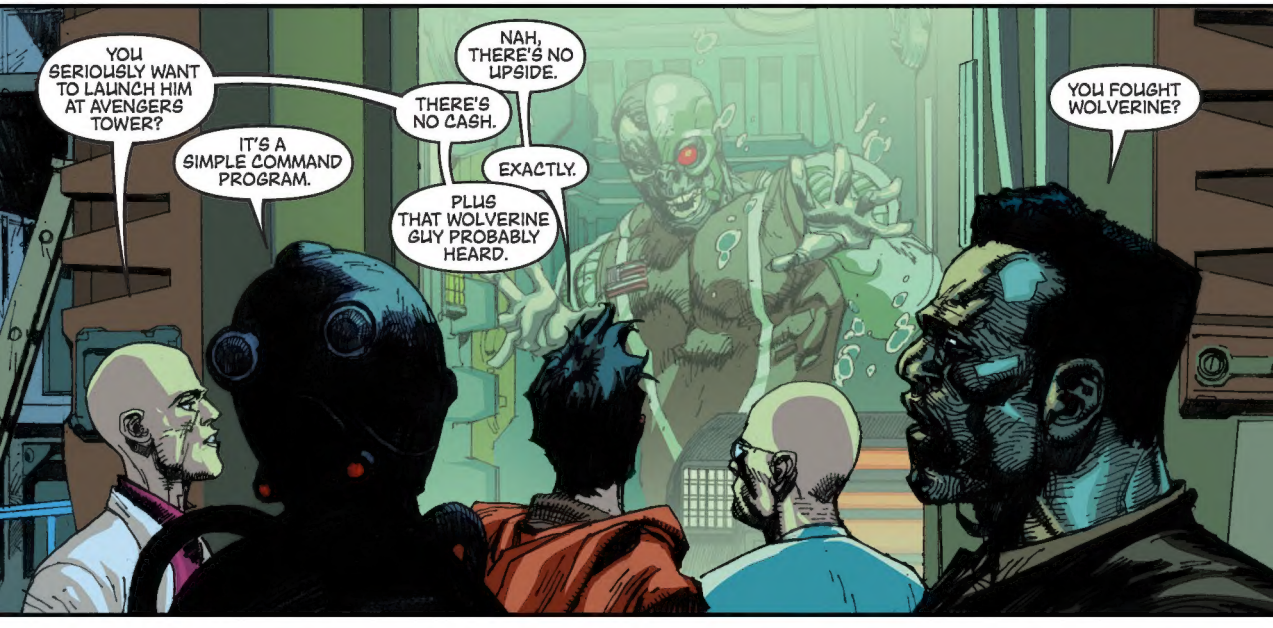
CRACK
SMASH
CRACK
AGH!
RRRRR!
GUH...
GUH...

BLAM
AAAIEE!
AAAIEE!
AAAIEE!
QUIET NOW, YOU DON'T WANT TO WAKE THE NEIGHBORS.
BEEP BOOOP BOP
JANET GARSON. 45 PENNY LANE, MADISON, WISCONSIN.
NNNN--
THAT'S YOUR MOMMY. YOU LOVE YOUR MOMMY. SHE EVEN LOVES YOU--
NNNGG--
--EVEN THOUGH YOU TURNED INTO THIS HORRIBLE-SMELLING CAT PERSON.
SAY HI TO MOMMY.
GGKK..
HELLO? HELLO, GREER?

CLIP
YOU STAY AWAY FROM MY MEN.
YOU DO WHAT I SAY WHEN I SAY OR I WILL KILL YOUR MOTHER.
I WILL KILL HER.
AND AFTER YOU'VE FULLY GRIEVED THE FACT THAT YOU LET ME KILL YOUR MOTHER BECAUSE YOU'RE A SELFISH LITTLE PIG...
...WHEN I FEEL YOU'VE FULLY FELT EVERY SINGLE HORRIBLE FEELING YOU COULD POSSIBLY FEEL FROM THAT SELFISHNESS...
...THEN I WILL KILL YOU TOO.
GOT IT?!
STOPPP--
GOT IT?!
SMACK
AAAIEE!
GOT IT?!
SMACK
AAIE!
HD
GOT IT?!
SMACK
AAIE!

I THINK SHE GOT IT.
WWWHHHOOOO!
AMAZING!
THAT WAS INCREDIBLE.
IF ONLY IT WAS FRANK CASTLE!
THAT PUTZ IS NEXT!
I WANT A COPY. CAN WE GET COPIES?
JOHN, RIGHT?
YEAH.
I'M CURTIS CARR, CHEMISTRO.
WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE, CURTIS.
WELL, I GOT A CALL FROM THIS GUY CALLS HIMSELF THE OWL. YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?
YEAH.
DID YOU GUYS INVITE HIM TO BE PART OF THIS?
WELL, HE'S GOT SOMETHING TO SELL.
YEAH, BUT HE DIDN'T SHOW, SO...
HE DIDN'T SAY WHAT-- HE SAID BRING A LOT OF MONEY BECAUSE IT'S SWEET. THE GUY'S KIND OF A JACKASS.
YEAH. THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT.
SO I FIGURES, IF HE AIN'T IN, HE'S OUT.
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.
AND IF HE'S SELLING GOODS WITHOUT OUR--YOUR-- PERMISSION.
EXACTLY RIGHT.
GUY PROBABLY NEEDS TO BE PUT OUT THERE. MADE AN EXAMPLE OF.
DID HE TELL YOU WHEN AND WHERE?

TODAY.
GOT US A DEATHLOK.
NOW I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO GET YOU FOR CHRISTMAS.
WHAT *DO* YOU GET A GUY WHO HAS A DEATHLOK?
EXACTLY.


YOU SERIOUSLY WANT TO LAUNCH HIM AT AVENGERS TOWER?
IT'S A SIMPLE COMMAND PROGRAM.
THERE'S NO CASH.
NAH, THERE'S NO UPSIDE.
EXACTLY.
PLUS THAT WOLVERINE GUY PROBABLY HEARD.
YOU FOUGHT WOLVERINE?

LAST NIGHT.
I HAVE AN IDEA.
AND YOU'RE HERE IN ONE PIECE? PRETTY BADASS.
I KNOW WHAT *YOU* WANT.
BROWN BROTHERS HARRIMAN & CO.
WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S THE OLDEST AND LARGEST PARTNERSHIP BANK IN THE UNITED STATES.

I *KNEW* YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THAT!
$4.2 BILLION IN ASSETS.
REALLY?
YOU REALLY HAVE A THING ABOUT THEM.
YEAH, YOU KNOW WHY? $4.2 BILLION IN ASSETS.
THE ONE IN NEW YORK?

RIGHT UNDER THE BAXTER BUILDING? NO WAY.
THEY HAVE A LOCATION IN JERSEY.
SEE, *NOW* YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING.

BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA

FSSSSH
FSSSSH

BOOM

12.7 MILLION AND CHANGE.
BUT WE TRASHED THE DEATHLOK.
YEAH. DEATHLOK GO BYE-BYE.

OH WELL. HERE, FOR YOU, CURTIS...
1.3 MILLION.
WHAT?
WHAT?
TEN PERCENT OFF THE TOP. FINDER'S FEE.
UH, WHAT DID I FIND?

THAT'S HOW IT WORKS NOW.
YOU GOT US DEATHLOK, DEATHLOK GOT US THIS. YOU GET YOUR PIECE. EVERYONE GETS THEIR PIECE.
LAUNDER IT.
YEAH, YEAH, I GOT A GUY.
GLEE GLEE
HUH.

HELLO?
WHAT?
WHAT?
IS THERE A TV IN HERE?

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
I MEAN, COME ON!!
--ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA HOW OR WHY THIS HAS HAPPENED TO THE CITY, BUT NEW YORK IS LITERALLY UNDER SIEGE BY A HORDE OF MONSTROSITIES THAT EXPERTS ARE SAYING ARE SYMBIOTIC IN NATURE.
AS THIS LIVE SECURITY CAMERA FEED SHOWS, THE AVENGERS ARE ON THE SCENE BUT STILL THE QUESTION REMAINS.
DEADLINENEWS
SYMBIOTE-RELATED MADNESS TAKES OVER NEW YORK.
LIVE

DUDE, THAT'S LIVE? LIKE RIGHT NOW?
SEE WHERE IT SAYS LIVE? THAT MEANS IT'S LIVE.
THAT'S NEW YORK CITY?
DO YOU SEE WHERE IT SAYS NEW YORK CITY?
COME ON, MAN...
DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
SOME SORT OF BIOLOGICAL ATTACK.

OPPORTUNITY.
GRAND OPPORTUNITY.
TO BE CONTINUED...